

KELLY'S CRIME CORNER

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It's that time of year again - when the streets are filled with ghouls and goblins! Trick-or-treating can be a fun time for the kids - but it can also be a dangerous time, too. Kids can get very excited while trick-or-treating and forget all the lessons they've learned about safely crossing streets, and talking to strangers. Kelly's Crime Corner wants to make sure the only scary things that we see on Halloween will be the costumes and the decorations! By following the safety tips below, you can help your kids have a safe trick-or-treating experience! Boo!

TRICK OR TREAT TIPS

- Try to trick-or-treat when there is still light outside
- Wear a costume that makes it easy for you to walk, see, and be seen
- Carry a flashlight with you, so you can see and be seen easily
- A mask may keep you from seeing well. Take off your mask before crossing the street
- Use makeup instead of a mask
- Make sure you have a parent, adult, or older brother or sister with you while trick-or-treating
- Trick-or-treat in a group - it's more fun!
- Plan your route ahead of time. Pick well-lighted streets
- Cross only at the corner. Never cross between parked cars or mid-block
- Tell your family on which streets you will be trick-or-treating
- If there are no sidewalks, always walk facing traffic
- Wait until you get home to sort, check and eat your treats!

Following these safety tips can help make your Halloween a fun and safe night!



WHAT IS NIXLE?

Nixle is a mass notification system used by over 5,000 public agencies. Nixle will allow the Costa Mesa Police Department to communicate with residents by text message and email, at no cost to the residents.

Civilian communications are critical to an effective emergency response, and over 85% of civilians can be instantly reached on their mobile phone by text message. In crisis situations, timely information saves lives, and there is no more effective channel to quickly reach large populations than mobile text messaging. With Nixle, the Police Department will be able to reach residents by both mobile phone and email using Nixle's high performance messaging network.

Nixle also will allow the Police Department to contact residents geographically. Notifications can be made to residents about a variety of things, including

emergency preparation, traffic management, event management, community outreach, hazardous situations, press releases, and missing and wanted individuals.

The Police Department expects to have Nixle up and running very soon. Look for upcoming press releases on this. When Nixle goes live, you will be able to register via a link that will be on the PD website at www.costamesapd.org.

Our goal is have as many residents as possible register for this service. Nixle is one more tool that will enable us to keep residents informed about important safety issues in our community!

PACKAGE DELIVERIES

This issue of Kelly's Crime Corner has a distinct Halloween flavor to it - I'm sure you noticed the new header! But our thoughts aren't very far away from the holiday season and gift buying. Shopping online has risen over the last few years, and it's never too early to be reminded about some of the dangers of having packages delivered to your home.

Online ordering makes it easy for people to shop from the comfort of their homes. Problems can start if you work during the day, and no one is home when the items you ordered are delivered. There have been instances in Costa Mesa where delivered packages are taken from peoples' doorsteps, and as the holidays grow closer and more packages are delivered it's time to think about how to keep our deliveries safe.

There are a few things you can do to make sure you take delivery of your packages safely. One of the easiest ways to do this is to talk to your neighbors! Let a trusted neighbor know you are expecting a

delivery, and ask them to be on the lookout for your delivery. Reciprocate for them when they have a package delivered. This is just one more way to be a good neighbor!

Check the website of the delivery company that will be delivering your package. UPS and FedEx both offer customers the ability to customize the time and date of their delivery for when they will be home. This is a great service to make sure you receive your delivery. Happy shopping!

